



OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER

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*Frank H. Murkowski, Governor*

NEWS RELEASE

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**U.S. Small Business Administrator Hector Barreto in Alaska**

(August 5, 2005) – Hector V. Barreto, Administrator for the U.S. Small Business Administration, will be in Alaska traveling through Fairbanks, Anchorage and Juneau August 8-10, 2005. Governor Frank H. Murkowski invited Mr. Barreto to Alaska to see, first hand, the unique opportunities and challenges facing Alaskan small business owners. On his tour, Mr. Barreto will meet with small business owners, bankers, and local leaders to discuss the various programs available to Alaskans to start or grow a business.

Mr. Barreto will discuss economic security issues as well as small business matters affecting communities throughout Alaska.

The media is invited to attend the Small Business Dinner at the Hotel Captain Cook on Monday, August 8, 7:00 – 9:30 p.m. Mr. Barreto is the featured speaker at the event hosted by the Department of Commerce, Community and Economic Development. Sponsorship for the dinner provided by Wells Fargo, Alaska USA, Northrim Bank and other partners.

The Administrator will make himself available to the media during his time in Alaska. Please contact Mr. Barreto's Press Secretary, Anne Marie Frawley, (202) 320-2147 or e-mail her at [Annemarie.Frawley@sba.gov](mailto:Annemarie.Frawley@sba.gov)

Hector Barreto was unanimously confirmed by the U.S. Senate as the 21<sup>st</sup> Administrator of the U.S. Small Business Administration which oversees the delivery of financial and business development tools to America's entrepreneurs.

Marilyn Stewart-Richardson, Program Director for the Alaska Small Business Outreach Program said she is always looking for ways to get the word out about state and federal programs for small business owners. "I've found that most Alaskans who want to open a business have great ideas and a tremendous drive to succeed," said Stewart-Richardson. "All they need is a plan for crafting a solid business plan and some hints on ways to get the needed capital. The SBA provides small businesses the resources necessary to succeed."

For more information on the state's small business program visit [www.dced.state.ak.us/dca/smallbus/home.htm](http://www.dced.state.ak.us/dca/smallbus/home.htm) or call Marilyn Stewart-Richardson at 907-269-7985.

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